



U.S. Senator Judd Gregg, Chairman

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

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Gregg Joins Boehner in Calling on Dept. of Ed to Investigate Allegations of Test Sabotage by Teacher Group

Washington, DC-Senator Judd Gregg (R-New Hampshire) Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, today joined Congressman John Boehner (R-Ohio) Chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, in calling on the Inspector General of the Department of Education to begin an investigation of alleged efforts by the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (AACTE) to use a stolen copy of a highly confidential test to sabotage efforts to have teachers take standardized certification tests as one measure of teacher quality.

According to *The Washington Post* and *The Washington Times*, the president of the AACTE may have used a stolen, confidential copy of a field test to fight against Department of Education efforts to make teachers prove they are knowledgeable in the subjects they teach by taking a standardized test.

The AACTE has received approximately \$500,000 per year in federal funding to provide a clearinghouse on teacher education. There are now questions as to whether those federal funds have been spent in an appropriate and unbiased fashion

The American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence received a \$5 million federal grant from the Department of Education to design and write a test to certify classroom teachers. A copy of this highly confidential test was stolen and then appeared in material circulated by the AACTE in their efforts to rally teachers against testing efforts.

AACTE's access to a stolen test is particularly suspicious given the fact teachers certified by the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence would not be required to attend an AACTE affiliated school. Passage of the American Board's rigorous teacher certification exam would allow highly qualified individuals to bypass AACTE colleges en route to the classroom.

Because the test was stolen, the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence was forced to throw out hundreds of test questions.

"We don't know how a confidential test made its way into the hands of this organization but we need to find out immediately. This kind of behavior would not be tolerated in the smallest kindergarten classroom in the nation and it should not be tolerated in one of largest teacher organizations in the country. I hope there is a logical explanation for this. Students who deserve to have qualified teachers in their classroom and the parents who pay the tax bill to support their education will be waiting for that explanation," Gregg said.

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